(f) Does not arise.

Mutual funds by financial institutions

3907. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the financial institutions given permission to open mutual fund;

(b) the details of pending applications in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether all institutions have been given permission in this regard on the same terms and conditions;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The following financial institutions have been given permission to launch mutual funds;

(i) Life Insurance Corporation of India,

(ii) General Insurance Corporation of India,

(iii) National Housing Bank.

(b) No application from any financial institution is pending with Government in this regard.

(c) to (e). Government have in February 1992, issued a comprehensive set of prudential guidelines for the development and regulation of all mutual funds which invest primarily in the capital market and for investors protection. The regulatory frame work under this guidelines includes inter-alia, autorisation of mutual funds by the Securies and Exchange Board of India on the bases of certain eligibility criteria, restriction on their business activities and disclosure and accounting requirements.

(f) to ((h). All above institutions have been given permission to launch mutual funds on the bases of Government guidelines relating to eligibility criteria, investment objectives, disclosures and accounting standards, distribution policy etc.

[*English*]

Commission to Agents Under National Savings Scheme.

3908. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of commission paid to the agents who secure the National Savings Schemes Bonds business to the Post Offices at present;

(b) whether the Government are aware that most of the agents offer half of the commission to the customers intending to invest in the National Savings Scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the same margin of commission to the persons making investment under the Scheme directly with the Post Officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The rate of commission payable

to small savings agents on deposits in National Savings Scheme, 1987 mobilised through them is 1% of such deposits.

(b) No information is available regarding the extent to which this practice is prevalent.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The commission is paid to agents for canvassing and services render by them to the investor.

[*Translation*]

Export of sugar

3909. SHRI SURYA NARYAN YADAV:
SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar export during the current year and proposed to be exported to be exported during 1992-93;

(b) the extent of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) the names of the countries to which sugar is exported and proposed to be exported; and

(d) the names of the States exporting sugar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). During 1991-92, (upto 21.2. 92), a quantity of Rs. 323.15 crores, Exports were made to USA , EEC, Nepal, Srilanka, Jordan, Indonesia, Libya, Yemen, Egypt and Turkey. No target for export of sugar during 1992-93 has been fixed so far.

(d) States are not involved in the exporting of sugar.

[*English*]

Irregularities in newsprint import

3910. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irregularities in import of newsprint and in giving export quota for textiles and garments committed by the STC have been noticed by the Government during the current year, so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the persons involved therein; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Some Irregularities have been alleged in the import of newsprint through M/s, Meteor Paper Ltd., London alleging that the newsprint was of Romanian Origin (i.e. Rupee Payment Area) but that the origin was declared as of Hungarian Origin, and the payment was consequently released by STD in US Dollars. In the second case of import of glazed newsprint from M/s. Finanpap, Finland, the main allegation is that the purchase had been made at a higher rate by STC, when the international price was supposedly lower.

The Government is looking into these alleged irregularities and "fact finding enquiries" in these cases are being made.